

CONNECTED

May 2005



“Make Safe Connections” and “Plug Into Electrical Safety” During National Electrical Safety Month 2005

The Marietta Board of Lights and Water (BLW) urges you to join people across America in observing National Electrical Safety Month in May.

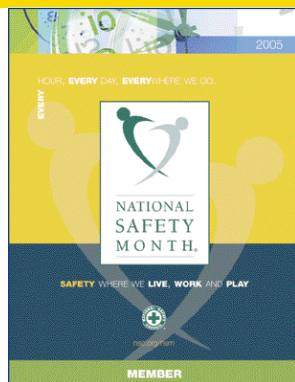
The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has chosen “Make Safe Connections – Plug into Safety” as the theme for National Safety Week 2005. The

foundation, Marietta Power, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and various media outlets in and around Cobb County will take advantage of the nationwide observance to provide regular reminders of safety considerations related to appliances, extension cords, outlets, surge suppressors, and other potential hazards related to electricity.



According to the latest statistics from the CPSC, an average of more than 140,000 electrical-related home structure fires take place every year. These fires result in more than 500 deaths, more than 5,300 injuries, and nearly \$1.6 billion in property damage each year.

Electrical hazards in the workplace claim a high cost in lives and property each year as well. Statistics from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration reveal that nearly 300 people get electrocuted on the job each year. These incidents also cost millions of dollars in lost corporate and personal productivity.



continued



Keep Cool This Summer Without Overheating Your Energy Bill

The Marietta Board of Lights and Water offers the following tips to help you keep cool this summer without spending any more for electricity than you have to:

- **Change Filters Regularly.** Replace the filter the first time you turn the system on, or shortly thereafter. You should then replace it again every two or three months until you shut it down for winter.

- **“Don’t Try to Air Condition the Whole World.”** Keep your windows and doors closed.
- **Check Your Thermostat’s Accuracy.** Compare your thermostat’s reading with that of an accurate thermometer. Have the thermostat recalibrated if it proves inaccurate.
- **Monitor Your System’s**



continued

Keep Cool This Summer Without Overheating Your Energy Bill (continued)

Refrigerant Charge. To get a ballpark idea of how your air conditioner's refrigerant supply is holding up, simply put your hand on the largest copper pipe that comes out the back. The bare copper should feel cold when the unit has run for 10-15 minutes. If not, have the unit checked by a reputable professional.

- **Set Thermostats in the 76-78-Degree Range.** You will use 3 - 5 percent more energy to cool the air every degree below that level.
- **Cool People, Not Property.** Set your thermostat higher during the times of day

when no one is home. Experts recommend installing a programmable thermostat and setting the temperature at 85 degrees during times when your home is unoccupied. Similarly, you should turn off window air conditioners in unoccupied rooms.

- **Give Your AC Unit Room to Work Efficiently.** Get rid of weeds and leaves near your compressor. Give your unit at least two feet of clearance all the way around, and allow at least six feet of overhead clearance to ensure a free flow of air. For more information tips on saving energy, please visit www.mariettapower.com. ⚡



"Make Safe Connections" and "Plug Into Electrical Safety" During National Electrical Safety Month 2005 (continued)

Costs related to health insurance, workers compensation claims, and litigation make the monetary price of electrical accidents climb even higher.

As part of your activities this National Electrical Safety Month, the Marietta BLW encourages you to install or test Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in your home and workplace. GFCIs prevent serious electrical shock or electrocution by shutting of power

in a circuit if the device detects leakage of electrical current. GFCIs typically have "Test" and "Reset" buttons in visible locations. Safety experts recommend that you use these buttons to check GFCIs at least once a month, and preferably after every major electrical storm.

For more information on GFCIs and electrical safety, please call Marietta Power at (770) 794-5150 or e-mail thepower@marietta.ga.gov. ⚡

Calendar of Events

**Thursdays, May 5, May 12,
May 19, May 26**

Brown Bag Concert Series

Marietta Square

12 noon

Call (770) 429-1115 for information.

Free!

Saturday, May 7

**2005 Private Gardens of Master
Gardeners Tour**

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. rain or shine.

Cost \$10 per person.

Call (770) 528-4070

www.cobbextension.com.

Now through June 19

The Diviners

Theatre in the Square

Tickets \$20 to \$32.

Tues. through Sat. 8 p.m.,

Sun. 2:30 and 7 p.m.

Call (770) 422-8369 for information.

Now through August 14

**Wind Blown American Motorcycle
Fine Art**

Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art

Mon. through Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Adults \$5, students/seniors \$3,

children under 6 free.

Call (770) 528-1444 for information.

Saturday, June 4

Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest

Jim R. Miller Park

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Adults \$5, 18 & under free

Free parking

Call (770) 995-6446 for information.

Saturday, June 11

Take A Kid Fishing

Laurel Park

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Call (770) 794-5601 for information.

Free!

June 16 through 18

Cobb County Classic Radio

Jim R. Miller Park

8 p.m.

Adults \$12, children \$10, under 5 free.

Call (770) 684-7277 for information.

June 20 through 24

Covered Bridge Cub Scout Day Camp

Jim R. Miller Park

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Call (770) 989-8820 for information.

Friday, June 24

Glover Park Concert Series

Marietta Square

8 p.m.

The last Friday evening of each month

April through August.

Call (770) 429-1115 for information.

Saturday, June 25

Kids Chance Family Fun Fest

Jim R. Miller Park

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Adults \$7, Children under 12 free.

Call (770) 507-9866 for information.